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Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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Matanuska returns to service following short delay for maintenance

(JUNEAU, Alaska) – The Alaska Marine Highways System (AMHS) ferry Matanuska returned to service today after undergoing a brief stop here for maintenance to repair a broken engine head bolt.

Although the damaged head bolt didn't pose any safety concerns for the passengers, crew or the ship, AMHS wanted it repaired immediately to comply with regulatory guidelines, that according to Jim Beedle, Deputy Commissioner of Marine Operations for the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities.

AMHS marine engineers and a local welding contractor began working on the head bolt early this morning and completed the repair early this afternoon. Matanuska received Coast Guard clearance to sail southbound at 1 a.m. tomorrow.

"I'm pleased that the delay was minimal, and we were able to return the Matanuska to operational status as quickly as we did," said Beedle.

According to Beedle, the 409-foot ferry Malaspina and its crew accommodated many of Matanuska's passengers and vehicles when the Malaspina substituted for the Matanuska and operated on its schedule.

"Malaspina can carry 500 people and 88 vehicles," Beedle stated. "The Malaspina will have a full car deck when it transits north to Haines and Skagway tonight."

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